

REMARKS

This is in full and timely response to the non-final Official Action of July 11, 2006. Reexamination in light of the following remarks is respectfully requested. Applicants believe that no new matter has been added.

Claims 1-4, 6, 8-13 and 16-26 are currently pending in this application, with claims 1, 10, 16, 17, 19, 20, and 21 being independent.

At least for the reasons set forth below, Applicants respectfully traverse the foregoing rejections. Further, Applicants believe that there are also reasons other than those set forth below why the pending claims are patentable, and reserve the right to set forth those reasons, and to argue for the patentability of claims not explicitly addressed herein, in future papers.

I. Objections

A. Abstract

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it is written in improper language. By the foregoing amendments, the abstract has been amended so as to overcome the objection. Therefore, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

B. Disclosure

The disclosure is objected to because of informalities. By the foregoing amendments, the disclosure has been amended so as to overcome the objection. Therefore, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

II. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1-4, 6, 8-13 and 16-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

By the foregoing amendments, Applicant has amended the claims in order to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

III. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

A. Claims 1-4, 6, 10-13 and 16-20

Claims 1-4, 6, 10-13 and 16-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Strandberg (US2002/0161589) in view of Yacenda (US2001/0003100). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Strandberg arguably teaches a system and method for utilizing a computer network in conjunction with traditional telemarketing. Yacenda arguably teaches an interactive computer gaming system with audio response.

Claim 1

Claim 1 is directed to a lottery system utilizing an electronic mail, comprising: means for specifying particular participants for a lottery from a database; means for uniquely allocating an electronic mail address to each of said specified participants so that said electronic mail addresses are different from each other; means for sending a first electronic mail to each of said participants, in which the electronic mail address is affixed as a unique access key to each of said participants; means for recognizing an application for the lottery from each of said participants by receiving a second electronic mail sent back to said electronic mail address; and means for notifying each one of said participants who sent back the second electronic mail to the electronic mail address of the result of said lottery.

However, none of the applied art, alone or in combination, discloses, teaches or suggests the features of claim 1 as amended. Specifically, none of the applied art, alone or in combination, does disclose, teach or suggest “means for specifying participants for a lottery from a database; means for uniquely allocating an electronic mail address to each of said specified participants so that said electronic mail addresses are different from each other”.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of the claim is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-4, 6, 12, and 13

It is respectfully submitted that since claims 2-4, 6, 12 and 13 depend on claim 1, they are allowable for at least the reasons that claim 1 is allowable respectively and they are further allowable by reason of the additional limitations set forth therein. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Claim 10

Claim 10 is directed to a lottery system utilizing an electronic mail, comprising: means for specifying particular participants for a lottery from a database; means for uniquely allocating a keyword to be entered in a page of a URL, to each of participants so that the keywords are different from each other; means for sending an electronic mail in which the keyword is affixed as a unique access key, to each of the participants; means for recognizing an application from each of said participants when said participant accesses the page of said URL and enters the keyword; and means for notifying each of said participants of the result of the lottery.

However, none of the applied art, alone or in combination, discloses, teaches or suggests the features of claim 10 as amended. Specifically, none of the applied art, alone or in combination, does disclose, teach or suggest “means for specifying participants for a lottery from a database; means for uniquely allocating a keyword to be entered in a page of a URL, to each of participants so that the keywords are different from each other”.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of the claim is respectfully requested.

Claims 11 and 18

It is respectfully submitted that since claims 11 and 18 depend on claim 10, they are allowable for at least the reasons that claim 10 is allowable respectively and they are further allowable by reason of the additional limitations set forth therein. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Claim 16

Claim 16 is directed to a method for conducting a lottery, comprising the steps of: specifying particular participants for a lottery from a database; allocating uniquely an electronic mail address to each of said specified participants so that the electronic mail addresses are different from each other; sending by a host a first electronic mail in which the electronic mail address is affixed as a unique access key to each one of a plurality of said specified participants; recognizing said specified participants for a lottery by receiving a second electronic mail sent back to said electronic mail address from each of said participants; conducting said lottery; and notifying each one of the participants who sent back the second electronic mail of their result of said lottery.

However, none of the applied art, alone or in combination, discloses, teaches or suggests the features of claim 16 as amended. Specifically, none of the applied art, alone or in combination, does not disclose, teach or suggest steps of “specifying participants for a lottery from a database; allocating uniquely an electronic mail address to each of said specified participants so that the electronic mail addresses are different from each other”.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of the claim is respectfully requested.

Claim 17

Claim 17 is directed to a lottery system utilizing an electronic mail, comprising: means for specifying particular participants for a lottery from a database; means for uniquely allocating a URL to each of said participants so that the URLs are different from each other; means for sending an electronic mail in which the URL is affixed as a unique access key to each of the participants; means for recognizing an application from each of the participants when the participant accesses a page of the URL and enters an electronic mail address of the participant; and means for notifying each of said participants of the result of said lottery.

However, none of the applied art, alone or in combination, discloses, teaches or suggests the features of claim 17 as amended. Specifically, none of the applied art, alone or in combination, does disclose, teach or suggest “means for specifying participants for a lottery from a database; means for uniquely allocating a URL to each of said participants so that the URLs are different from each other”.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of the claim is respectfully requested.

Claim 19

Claim 19 is directed to a lottery system utilizing an electronic mail, comprising: means for specifying particular participants for a lottery from a database; means for providing at least one electronic mail address; means for allocating uniquely the at least one electronic mail address to each one of the specified participants so that the electronic mail addresses are different from each other; means for sending by a host a first electronic mail to each one of the specified participants, wherein the uniquely allocated at least one electronic mail address is affixed to the first electronic mail; means for receiving a second electronic mail sent from each one of the specified participants to the uniquely allocated at least one electronic mail address, so as to recognize the participants; means for conducting the lottery; and means for notifying each one of the recognized participants who sent the second electronic mail, of a result of the lottery.

However, none of the applied art, alone or in combination, discloses, teaches or suggests the features of claim 19 as amended. Specifically, none of the applied art, alone or in combination, does not disclose, teach or suggest “means for specifying participants for a lottery from a database; means for providing at least one electronic mail address; means for allocating uniquely the at least one electronic mail address to each one of the specified participants so that the electronic mail addresses are different from each other”.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of the claim is respectfully requested.

Claim 20

Claim 20 is directed to a method for conducting a lottery, comprising the steps of: specifying particular participants for the lottery from a database; providing at least one electronic mail address; allocating uniquely the at least one electronic mail address to each one of the specified participants so that the electronic mail addresses are different from each other; sending by a host a first electronic mail to each one of the specified participants, wherein the uniquely allocated at least one electronic mail address is affixed to the first electronic mail; receiving a second electronic mail sent from each one of the specified participants to the uniquely allocated at least one electronic mail address, so as to recognize the participants; conducting the lottery; and notifying each one of the recognized participants who sent the second electronic mail, of a result of the lottery.

However, none of the applied art, alone or in combination, discloses, teaches or suggests the features of claim 20 as amended. Specifically, none of the applied art, alone or in combination, does disclose, teach or suggest steps of “specifying participants for the lottery from a database; providing at least one electronic mail address; allocating uniquely the at least one electronic mail address to each one of the specified participants so that the electronic mail addresses are different from each other”.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of the claim is respectfully requested.

B. Claims 8 and 9

Claims 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Strandberg (US2002/0161589) in view of Sarno (US6,024,641). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Strandberg arguably teaches a system and method for utilizing a computer network in conjunction with traditional telemarketing. Sarno arguably discloses a method, apparatus and system for lottery gaming.

It is respectfully submitted that since claims 8 and 9 depend on claim 1, they are allowable for at least the reasons that claim 1 is allowable respectively and they are further allowable by reason of the additional limitations set forth therein. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

IV. Newly Added Claims

By the foregoing amendment, Applicant has added claims 21-26 in order to claim various features of the invention. Claim 26 recites the features similar to those of claim 1. Therefore, it is allowable at least for the reason that claim 1 is allowable. Claims 22-26 depend on claim 21 and therefore allowable for the reason that claim 21 is allowable.

V. Conclusion

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

The undersigned has been given limited recognition by the Director to prosecute as an attorney this application under 37 C.F.R. §10.9(a).

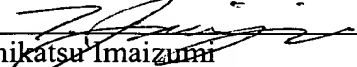
Application No. 09/653,163
Amendment dated October 11, 2006
Reply to Office Action of July 7, 2006

Docket No.: KAK-0001

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 18-0013, under Order No. KAK-0001 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: October 11, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Toshikatsu Imaizumi

Registration No.: L0046 (Limited Recognition)

RADER, FISHMAN & GRAUER PLLC
Correspondence Customer Number: 23353
Attorney for Applicant